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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. F. KRENKEL (Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that, with regard to the allocation of agenda item 105 (Programme planning), the General Assembly had decided that programme 4 of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan should be submitted to the Third Committee for review.

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/47/18, A/47/425, A/47/426, A/47/432, A/47/480, A/47/481)

AGENDA ITEM 92: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/47/391, A/47/412, A/47/433)

2. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that, although the international community had long ago recognized that racism and racial discrimination were a serious threat to human rights, to the dignity and security of the individual and to human life, the world was now becoming more and more aware that that scourge could generate unbearable internal tensions that could lead to outbreaks of unrest, with unpredictable consequences, and that, on the international scene, it could threaten global stability.

3. The premises underlying racism had evolved from the concept of the inequality of races to a theory based on culture, nationality or religion; thus, there was now a "neoracism" in which discrimination was practised against migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers, ethnic or religious minorities or indigenous populations. The so-called "differences" had become the basis for rejection and discrimination, providing a simplistic pretext for nationalistic ambitions, economic interests and electoral strategies.

4. Algeria noted with concern that a multifaceted racism was spreading throughout the world, particularly in Europe; neofascist and xenophobic groups were increasing their criminal activities, and extremist and ultranationalistic political parties were flourishing, laying the foundations for what was tantamount to a practice of "worldwide apartheid". The Mahgreb had been particularly affected by racism against migrant workers, who, despite their contribution to the prosperity of the countries of the North, had become the preferred target of racial intolerance, owing in part to the recession. Algeria wished to request that the countries of asylum should continue to give high priority to the strengthening of legal and political measures to combat that form of racism, particularly through the adoption of administrative measures and the application of criminal and civil sanctions against the perpetrators of violations, offences and crimes of a racist nature.

5. The agreement reached in September 1992 between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, which would allow for the resumption of negotiations between the African National Congress and the Government of South Africa, led the Algerian delegation to hope that the process could lead to a satisfactory conclusion. None the less, the Government of South Africa must put an end to

(Mr. Sahraoui, Algeria)

the violence, guarantee the security of all its citizens and strictly adhere to the decisions of the Security Council, especially resolution 765 (1992).

6. The past few years had been characterized by a great paradox: although it was true that democracy must be a sacred objective for all, it was no less true that racism could not be tolerated without jeopardizing democracy itself or running the risk of further outbreaks of unrest or wars anywhere in the world.

7. Algeria firmly supported the recommendation by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights that the General Assembly proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, beginning in 1994. In that regard, Algeria suggested that an objective evaluation should be made of the Second Decade, that the activities begun during the Second Decade that had not yet been completed should be continued, that priorities should be established and that proper coordination of activities should be ensured, with special emphasis on concrete measures that could be easily implemented.

8. With regard to substance, Algeria felt that, as part of its overall mission of combating racism and racial discrimination, the third decade should attach priority to the problem of neoracism. There was no question that those matters should be fundamental to the debates of the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna in 1993.

9. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/47/481), that Committee's spring session had been cancelled and its summer session curtailed. In order for that Committee to be able to continue to carry out its vital mission, the Third Committee should approve the amendment to article 8, paragraph 6, of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, specifying that in future the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be funded from the United Nations regular budget.

10. The right of peoples to self-determination was a fundamental principle that should govern relations between States; it had been clearly laid down and defined in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In that regard, the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people was the outcome of their desire to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria had pointed out that the success of the negotiations initiated in Madrid depended on the extent to which Israel was willing to comply with international law, particularly United Nations resolutions, put an end to its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories, dismantle the existing settlements, and guarantee the continuance of the different stages of the peace process until a comprehensive solution could be reached which would guarantee that the Palestinian people could fully exercise its national

(Mr. Sahraoui, Algeria)

rights, including its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own State, on its own territory, with Jerusalem as the capital of that State.

11. Lastly, his delegation wished to express its concern at the delays in the application of the United Nations plan for the holding of a referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. His delegation trusted that the two parties to the conflict would refrain from any acts which might hamper or delay the referendum. Algeria would spare no effort to contribute to the achievement of a just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara, and was convinced that a definitive settlement of that question would play a decisive role in promoting stability and security in the region and the construction of a united and fraternal Mahgreb.

12. Mrs. TURBAY (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Three, namely, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia, said that at the most recent regular session of the Economic and Social Council, the Group of Three had strongly condemned all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, colour or ethnic origin. In that regard, the Group noted with concern the "prevalence of racism and racial tensions as well as the rising tide of xenophobia", referred to by the Secretary-General in his report (A/47/432).

13. The racism and xenophobia which had been manifested increasingly and in different ways in recent months were to a certain extent evidence of a lack of concern on the part of the Governments of the countries in which they occurred. It was therefore important to intensify efforts to narrow the gap between the problems affecting mankind and the measures taken within the Organization. The Group of Three reaffirmed its commitment to and support for the proclamation of the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, as well as the adoption of a programme of action in that regard. The Group also considered that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families represented an important step towards the protection of those groups, particularly in view of the fact that their situation had continued to deteriorate.

14. The third decade and the programme of action should reflect the new circumstances in the world which had developed when the cold war had come to an end. Europe was now one of the focal points of racial discrimination, xenophobia and various forms of aberrant nationalism which had led to outbursts of violence that were totally unacceptable, not only in Yugoslavia, but also in countries that had previously shown respect for civil rights and democracy. The forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights must explicitly concern itself with those problems, among others, and it must adopt effective measures, not purely rhetorical ones, to address the issue.

(Mrs. Turbay, Colombia)

15. With regard to the situation in South Africa, she said that the atmosphere of violence which had prevailed over the past few months, along with the general strike and the divergences between the parties involved in the negotiations, were most discouraging. The Group of Three had noted with interest the agreements reached recently by President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela; none the less, it was regrettable that not all the parties concerned had participated in the process. The Group of Three hoped that the new round of talks would lead to a definitive agreement in the context of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, and the subsequent construction of a truly united, democratic and non-racial South African society. That would be a crucial stage which should be closely monitored by the General Assembly and its Member States.

16. Lastly, she reaffirmed the support of the Group of Three for the principle of self-determination of peoples, as embodied in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

17. Mr. ROWE (Australia) said that the elimination of racism was a fundamental challenge for the international community and for individuals. Sadly, at the end of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the fight against racial discrimination and persecution of minorities still must be maintained and strengthened. The resurgence of racism and discrimination against minorities in Europe and Central Asia was of great concern. Furthermore, the situation in South Africa had entered a period of uncertainty as a result of the violence of recent months, although his Government considered the agreement reached between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela on 26 September 1992 a major step forward.

18. In Australia, a national inquiry into racist violence had been announced in 1988 in the light of an increase in such incidents. The inquiry had arrived at the conclusion that incidents of racist violence, especially against Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, should be a matter of concern to all Australians, but despite the country's racial, ethnic and cultural diversity, in Australia the level of that type of violence was nowhere near the level experienced in many other countries.

19. In April 1991 the Australian Government had launched a number of programmes based on the recommendations of the national inquiry into racist violence, including a programme of information and strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to help them resolve discrimination at the local level, and a programme to help people of non-English-speaking background solve immigration, health, and employment problems, among others. The Government had begun work on a project to establish uniform national procedures for statistics on racial violence. It had also launched a programme on media reporting in response to a finding that reporting often contributed to the stereotyping and vilification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and ethnic minorities, as well as a national campaign to promote awareness of human rights and antiracism principles among young

(Mr. Rowe, Australia)

people, with the support of sports and entertainment celebrities. Another programme would demonstrate to employers the advantages of effectively managing a culturally diverse workforce in terms of compliance with antidiscrimination legislation and improved industrial relations and productivity. A "sister schools" scheme would promote tolerance through the forging of links between schools with few or no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children and other schools with large numbers of such children.

20. The Australian Government had offered to host an international seminar in 1993 on the role of national institutions in combating racism. Australia was firmly committed to achieving the objectives of the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples and had assisted in the preparations for the Year, in particular through the secondment of an officer to the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva.

21. The Government of Australia, in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had introduced legislation to fight racial vilification through the use of both civil remedies and criminal offences. In 1991 Australia had acceded to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and was currently taking steps to enable it to make the appropriate declarations under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to allow individuals access to the monitoring committees for those Conventions. His delegation hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the proposed amendment to the latter convention in order to allow the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination from the regular budget, as well as a similar measure for the Committee against Torture.

22. In Australia, 1992 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the referendum at which an overwhelming 91 per cent of Australians had voted to amend the Constitution to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be included in the national census and to give the Government the power to make laws for them concurrently with State Governments. The 1967 referendum had marked the beginning of a new era of awareness and understanding among Australians that it was necessary to correct the tragic history of dispossession of its indigenous peoples. The current process of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, initiated in September 1991, was guided by a council of 25 prominent Australians, both indigenous and non-indigenous. The Council's objectives were: to promote deeper understanding of the history, culture and past dispossession of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and the need to redress that continuing disadvantage; to foster a commitment at all levels of government in Australia to cooperate in order to address progressively the aspirations of those peoples and remedy their disadvantages; and to consult with them and the wider community on whether reconciliation would be advanced by a formal document.

(Mr. Rowe, Australia)

23. A fundamental element in the reconciliation process would be the response of the Australian Government to the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal deaths in custody. The Commission had examined the cases of 99 Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders who had died in custody between 1980 and 1989, and had reached the conclusion that they had died not as a result of isolated acts of violence but because they had lived as victims of institutionalized racism and discrimination. The Royal Commission had made 339 recommendations which sought the reform of policy affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, all but one of which had been supported by the Government. The Government would examine the means by which those peoples could acquire land, address the problems of substance abuse, gain better employment and educational opportunities and be provided with support for economic enterprises within their communities.

24. Another significant development for indigenous peoples was the decision by the High Court of Australia to recognize a form of native land title for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. International jurists and historians regarded that decision as a major step forward in the common law interpretation of the doctrine of communal native title, putting an end to the racist notion of terra nullius. The High Court decision created some uncertainty, however, because it specified neither the nature of those title rights nor their relationship to other rights.

25. The questions under discussion could be placed within the broader context of the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination. Australia was one of the few countries which had supported the inclusion of the concept of self-determination in the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. Self-determination was a principle applicable to all peoples and an essential element for the enjoyment of all other human rights. But the exercise of that right had been limited in practice to the context of decolonization, as former colonial territories had acquired their independence and had become sovereign States. If self-determination meant full independence, it would be very difficult for States to grant the exercise of that right to many groups seeking it, including indigenous peoples. Nevertheless, the right to self-determination could not be allowed to wither away in the post-decolonization period and should be adapted to changing circumstances.

26. In 1989, Dr. Wilenski, then Permanent Representative of Australia, had said that the right to self-determination was not accomplished by a single act, but entailed the continuing right of all peoples and individuals to participate fully in the political process by which they were governed. Indigenous groups would have to overcome barriers inhibiting their full democratic participation in the political process. Their right to self-determination must be recognized none the less, without, however, an exact prescription for the form which it should take.

27. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the United Nations attached great importance to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, which undermined the principle of equality among peoples and the dignity of the human person. Many international instruments had therefore reaffirmed that racism and racial discrimination were crimes against humanity. However, despite several conventions adopted by the international community to promote the elimination of such practices, and despite initiatives such as the proclamation of the two Decades, many peoples remained victims of such shameful policies.

28. In South Africa, the Pretoria regime continued to be based on apartheid, which was a disgrace to the United Nations and the entire world. Although welcome actions had recently been taken, such as the release of political prisoners, legalization of the African National Congress and amendment of some racist laws, the apartheid system remained a cause of great concern to the Libyan Government. The disastrous events in Ciskei demanded that responsibility for so many deaths among the innocent civilian population should be attributed to the South African regime. That regime must take all necessary steps to establish the basis for a democratic and non-racial Government under which universal suffrage and citizenship and nationality for all would be guaranteed. Until such a State became reality, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya supported maintaining the sanctions imposed by the international community against the Pretoria regime.

29. In the occupied Palestinian territories, the Zionist entity continued to conduct a policy of racial discrimination against the local population based on legislative measures such as the 1950 Law of Return and the 1952 Citizenship Law, enacted to promote Jewish immigration to Palestine, as well as other measures legalizing the confiscation of land in order to establish Jewish settlements to the detriment of the Palestinian people. The goal was the elimination of that people through mass expulsions, the destruction of houses and villages, suppression of the cultural identity of the Palestinians and control of their water resources, a situation which had worsened since the beginning of the intifadah in 1987.

30. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was about to end and not only had its objectives not been achieved, but new manifestations of racism had come about, such as the growing xenophobia directed against immigrant workers in some European countries. For that reason, his delegation reaffirmed its support for resolution 1992/13, which had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1992 substantive session and recommended that, in 1993, the General Assembly should proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

31. Although his Government welcomed the activities conducted within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, it felt that it was necessary to complete the unfinished activities which related to the first half of the Decade and had not been concluded because of a lack of resources. That was the case, for example, with regard to the effort to promote the enactment by Member States of laws against racial discrimination. There

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

should also be greater coordination between the various bodies and agencies engaged in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

32. He hoped that at the current session of the General Assembly a solution would be found to the financial problems impeding the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and supported the proposal that its activities should be financed through the regular budget of the United Nations.

33. The Organization should provide all the necessary means to enable the Special Rapporteur to carry out his work on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa. In that connection, he pointed out that his country was guided by the precepts of the Koran as the law of the community and considered that all peoples were equal before the law. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, therefore, was proud that it did not cooperate any way with the racist regime of South Africa or the oppressors of the Palestinian people.

34. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that towards the end of the twentieth century and in spite of the considerable contribution by the United Nations striving for decades to refute the notion of racial superiority and eliminate it from the official policies of Governments, the world was witnessing again and again manifestations of racial intolerance, to the extent that the countries where there had been no violations of human dignity could be considered mere exceptions.

35. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had stated that, unfortunately, the increase in such manifestations could be observed also in Europe. The most common victims were refugees and immigrants, mostly from developing countries. Mention should be made in that connection of the recent events in Rostock and some other German cities, where even the extraordinary efforts of the authorities had not prevented acts of racial hatred against immigrants. While those events did not occur solely in Europe, they should be mentioned because they represented a warning signal for other European countries and because, as stated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the terror unleashed against asylum-seekers was not the approach of the majority of Germans.

36. Nor was it the position of the Government of Czechoslovakia, a fact which did not prevent the phenomenon of racism from occurring in the country, to the detriment of the gypsy population in particular. There had already been cases of the criminal prosecution of those who had violated provisions of the Czechoslovak Penal Code in that regard.

37. The current situation confirmed the inevitable need to expand United Nations activities in the field of protection against racism and racial discrimination by improving the effectiveness of existing mechanisms. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had helped bring about

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

positive changes in legislation and its practical implementation in many States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Draft model legislation to guide Governments in enacting further legislation against racial discrimination would undoubtedly be helpful to Czechoslovakia also.

38. The current financial crisis affecting the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was well known and had caused, among other problems, a significant delay between the submission of reports and their consideration. In the specific case of Czechoslovakia, that had given rise to a paradoxical situation: when its tenth report had been under discussion, the date of submission for its eleventh report had already elapsed and his country, which had not been solely to blame for that, had been classified among the 88 "debtor" States, which had not submitted two or more periodic reports. Czechoslovakia would submit in the near future a comprehensive report covering the two subsequent reports that were due. Under those circumstances, consideration should be given to the periodicity of the reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention.

39. The fact that the Committee was overburdened was also linked to the insufficient financing of its budget. In that regard, Czechoslovakia supported amending the respective provisions of article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of States parties to the Convention, held in January 1992.

40. The mechanisms for implementing the international human rights instruments were one of the most effective methods for protecting individual human rights and, for that reason, his Government recognized the competence of the Committee in that field, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention. His country was not opposed to the proposal to set up new mechanisms for promoting more consistent protection against racism and racial discrimination, such as establishing the post of a special rapporteur on the Commission on Human Rights for dealing with current forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, as well as the launching of a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

41. In view of the problems that had arisen with regard to the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports owing to the progress achieved in South Africa, Czechoslovakia considered that the most feasible solution was to suspend its application. A very important step in that field had been the recommendation by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to terminate the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance to the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa and to appoint a special rapporteur on the Subcommission to report on progress towards democracy and social justice in South Africa.

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

42. Owing to the rapid process of disintegration resulting from the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe, the item on the right of peoples to self-determination had become very important for the countries of the region and for many of them it had become a very troublesome question. The violent solutions to the problem of self-determination of peoples in Europe were, generally, cause for concern for his country because of the danger that they might develop into broader subregional conflicts. It was therefore necessary, in spite of minor promising signs, to bear in mind the fragile nature of those situations.

43. The right to self-determination was also of vital importance for Czechoslovakia, where the disintegration process of the common State of the Czechs and Slovaks represented in fact one of the forms of its implementation. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia had pointed out that the country was preparing to establish two closely interconnected sovereign States by creating a common economic space and maintaining the close human contacts between the people living in both republics. He assured the Committee that the replacement of the current federal system with new bonds would be carried out in a dignified and peaceful manner.

44. Mr. ANSARI (Pakistan) said that despite the two world conferences held, the two decades proclaimed and their respective programmes of action, the International Year and the current draft programme of action for a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, and in spite of virtually universal condemnation of the evil, millions of human beings continued to be victims of racism and racial discrimination in various forms. It should be noted that racism in the form of xenophobia and intolerance directed towards migrant workers, immigrants and refugees was on the increase.

45. His delegation agreed with the broad lines of the draft programme of action for a third decade, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/432), but believed that the effects of racially discriminatory policies and practices permeated society very deeply and generated socio-economic inequalities that persisted even after institutionalized discrimination had been removed. It might therefore be useful during the third decade to address in greater detail the economic consequences of racially discriminatory policies and practices.

46. The Serbian aggression against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia's "ethnic cleansing" campaign were examples of racism and racial discrimination at their worst. During the general debate in the plenary Assembly, Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs had called for the establishment of an international tribunal to prosecute and punish those responsible for the war crimes committed by the Serbian forces, including the genocidal practice of "ethnic cleansing", and Pakistan welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 780 (1992) requesting the establishment of a Commission of Experts to collect evidence of grave violations committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. That should be viewed as a first step

(Mr. Ansari, Pakistan)

leading to a trial of those responsible for the abhorrent and genocidal practice of "ethnic cleansing".

47. The conditions of violence in South Africa had culminated in the tragic massacre at Boipatong on 17 June 1992, and his delegation shared the disappointment of ANC at the inadequate response of the South African authorities in investigating the causes of the atrocities and the allegations of collusion and involvement of security personnel in that episode. The killing of more than 28 people in Bisho, Ciskei, on 6 September 1992 had further aggravated the situation. The positive achievements had to be consolidated and improved upon so that the goal of eliminating racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa would be achieved without further loss of life. An encouraging initiative had been taken by the Secretary-General in dispatching his Special Representative to South Africa to discuss with the parties concerned measures that could help bring an end to the violence and create conditions for the resumption of the negotiating process disrupted by the outbreak of violence.

48. Pakistan supported General Assembly resolution 46/79 relating to sanctions against South Africa and supported the decisions on sanctions taken by the Commonwealth States and the non-aligned movement. It was, however, imperative that appropriate pressure should be maintained on South Africa until the progress it made constituted clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes, as stipulated in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly in 1989.

49. Concerning the severe financial problems being faced by CERD due to the non-fulfilment of financial obligations by States parties to the Convention, his delegation hoped that the situation would improve after the amendment of article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention and the addition of a new paragraph 7 to article 8.

50. The World Conference on Human Rights to be held in June 1993 would be an excellent opportunity to focus attention on the question of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms.

51. Mr. SENE (Senegal) said that racism and racial discrimination undermined the harmony of peoples and nations, were a threat to international peace and security and inexorably gave rise to prejudice and myths. His delegation, which had taken part in implementing the programmes of action of the two decades to combat racism and racial discrimination, therefore believed that the struggle against those evils must take place at the level of the thinking, education and upbringing of persons. Considering the results of the global consultation on racism and racial discrimination organized by the Centre for Human Rights in October 1988, it was vital to hold encounters of this kind at the international, regional and national levels with the participation of non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of professional and sports associations.

(Mr. Sene, Senegal)

52. The United Nations had done important work in mobilizing the international community against apartheid. Despite the official abrogation of the apartheid laws, it had to be pointed out that the violence was gathering new force and that the black majority in South Africa did not fully enjoy its civil and political rights or its individual freedoms. The Government of South Africa, as a signatory of the National Peace Accord, must put an end to the increased violence in the black townships, free political prisoners, revoke the law on bantustans and the discriminatory laws in the fields of education and health, and establish relations of trust with neighbouring States. It was also essential for the spokesman of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) to continue their efforts to narrow the differences between the positions of the parties with a view to advancing the establishment of a transitional regime until a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa could be set up. Even if apartheid should permanently cease to exist in the perhaps not too distant future, the wounds, traumas and consequences of oppression would endure and the young people and children must be helped to overcome the obstacles to education, culture and the civilized practice of democracy.

53. The work done by the United Nations to combat racism and racial discrimination could not be reduced to legal questions or the legal instruments drafted over decades, for it consisted in many activities that appealed daily to the moral duty to be vigilant and firm in the face of what was still a current-day phenomenon. The United Nations should not assume a discretionary role but must help to eliminate or bring to light the obvious forms of racism like apartheid and the other more subtle forms such as those now proliferating in the former Yugoslavia, and also any manifestations of intolerance, xenophobia or prejudice against ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrant workers. In other words, it must raise consciousness through information and education, explain the conditions and interrelations needed to institute a universal respect for human rights, and denounce specific violations.

54. An urgent solution must be found to the financial difficulties facing CERD, which was a vital monitoring body among the mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

55. A commemorative Gorée-Almadies Monument had been built in Dakar and around it would be built a museum on slavery and a documentation centre on human rights. At the site there already existed a centre for research on democratic options in South Africa, established by South African intellectuals in 1987, and the "Université des Mutants", which provided education on the great civilizations, religions, schools of art and experiences with development, as a contribution to the global dialogue on cultures and humanism.

56. Lastly, given the United Nations objective of promoting respect for human rights without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, he was

(Mr. Sene, Senegal)

confident that the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna in June 1993 would take up the question of racism and racial discrimination and adopt constructive decisions on the issue.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.